

## FIS

- I find, quoth Mat, reproof is vain!  
Who *first* offend, will *first* complain. *Prior*.
3. Highest in dignity.  
Three presidents, of whom Daniel was *first*. *Dan*.  
*First* with the dogs, and king among the squires. *Speet*.
4. Great; excellent.  
My *first* son,  
Where will you go? Take good Cominius  
With thee. *Shakespeare's Coriolanus*.
- FIRST. *adv.*  
1. Before any thing else; earliest.  
He, not unmindful of his usual art,  
*First* in dissembled fire attempts to part;  
Then roaring beasts and running streams he tries. *Dryden*.  
Thy praise, and thine was then the publick voice,  
*First* recommended Guiscard to my choice. *Dryden*.  
Heav'n, sure, has kept this spot of earth uncurst,  
To shew how all things were created *first*. *Prior*.
2. Before any other consideration.  
*First*, metals are more durable than plants; secondly, they  
are more solid and hard; thirdly, they are wholly subterranean;  
whereas plants are part above earth, and part under the earth.  
*Bacon's Natural History*, N<sup>o</sup>. 603.
3. It has often *at* before it, and means at the beginning.  
*At first* the silent venom slid with ease,  
And seiz'd her cooler senses by degrees. *Dryden's Æn*.  
Excepting fish and insects, there are very few or no creatures  
that can provide for themselves *at first*, without the assistance  
of parents. *Bentley's Sermons*.
4. *First or last*. At one hour or other.  
But sure a general doom on man is pass,  
And all are fools and lovers *first or last*. *Dryden*.
- FIRST-BEGOT. *n. f.* [from *first* and *begot*.] The eldest  
FIRST-BORN. *n. f.* [from *first* and *born*.] Eldest; the first by  
the order of nativity.  
Last, with one midnight stroke, all the *first-born*  
Of Egypt must lie dead. *Milton's Paradise Lost*, b. xii.  
Hail, holy light, offspring of heav'n *first-born*! *Milton*.  
The *first-born* has not a sole or peculiar right, by any law  
of God and nature; the younger children having an equal  
title with him. *Locke*.
- FIRST-FRUIT. *n. f.* [from *first* and *fruits*.]  
1. What the season first produces or matures of any kind.  
A wheaty reaper from his tillage brought  
*First-fruits*, the green ear, and the yellow sheaf. *Milt. P. L.*  
The blooming hopes of my then very young patron have  
been confirmed by most noble *first-fruits*, and his life is going  
on towards a plentiful harvest of all accumulated virtues. *Prior*.
2. The first profits of any thing.  
Although the king loved to employ and advance bishops,  
because, having rich bishopricks, they carried their reward upon  
themselves; yet he did use to raise them by steps, that he  
might not lose the profit of the *first-fruits*, which by that  
course of gradation was multiplied. *Bacon's Henry VII.*
3. The earliest effect of any thing.  
See, Father, what *first-fruits* on earth are sprung,  
From thy implanted grace in man! — *Milton's Parad. Lost*.  
FIRSTLING. *adj.* [from *first*.] That which is first produced  
or brought forth.  
All the *firstling* males that come of thy herd, and of thy  
flock, thou shalt sanctify unto the Lord thy God. *Deutr. xv.*  
FIRSTLING. *n. f.* [from *first*.]  
1. The first produce or offspring.  
A shepherd next,  
More meek, came with the *firstlings* of his flock,  
Choicest and best. *Milton's Paradise Lost*, b. xi.  
The tender *firstlings* of my woolly breed,  
Shall on his holy altar often bleed. *Dryden's Virg. Past.*  
The *firstlings* of the flock are doom'd to die;  
Rich fragrant wines the cheering bowl supply. *Pope's Odyss.*
2. The thing first thought or done.  
Our play  
Leaps o'er the vault and *firstlings* of these broils,  
Ginning i' th' middle. *Shakes. Troil. and Cress. Prologue*.  
The flighty purpose works o'erlook,  
Unless the deed go with it: from this moment,  
The very *firstlings* of my heart shall be  
The *firstlings* of my hand. *Shakespeare's Macbeth*.
- FISCAL. *n. f.* [from *fiscus*, a treasury, Latin.] Exchequer;  
revenue.  
War, as it is entertained by diet, so can it not be long  
maintained by the ordinary *fiscal* and receipt. *Bacon*.
- FISH. *n. f.* [from *fish*, Saxon; *visch*, Dutch.] An animal that  
inhabits the water.  
The beasts, the *fishes*, and the winged fowls,  
Are their males subjects. *Shakes. Comedy of Errors*.  
I fight when I cannot chuse, and I eat no *fish*. *Sh. K. Lear*.

- And now the *fish* ignoble fates escape,  
Since Venus ow'd her safety to their shape. *Crash.*  
There are *fishes*, that have wings, that are not strangers to  
the airy region; and there are some birds that are inhabitants  
of the water, whose blood is cold as *fishes*; and their flesh is  
so like in taste, that the scrupulous are allowed them on fish-  
days. *Locke*.
- TO FISH. *v. n.*  
1. To be employed in catching fishes.  
2. To endeavour at any thing by artifice.  
I, with great truth, catch meer simplicity. *Shakespeare*.
- TO FISH. *v. a.* To search water in quest of fish, or any thing  
else.  
Some have *fished* the very jakes for papers left there by men  
of wit. *Swift*.  
Oft, as he *fish'd* her nether realms for wit,  
The goddess favour'd him, and favours yet. *Pope's Dunciad*.  
FISH-HOOK. *n. f.* [from *fish* and *hook*.] A hook baited, with which  
fish are caught.  
A sharp point, bended upward and backward, like a *fish-  
hook*. *Grew's Museum*.
- FISH-POND. *n. f.* [from *fish* and *pond*.] A small pool for fish.  
*Fish-ponds* are no small improvement of warty boggy  
lands. *Mortimer's Husbandry*.  
*Fish-ponds* were made where former forests grew,  
And hills were level'd to extend the view. *Prior*.  
After what I have said of the great value the Romans put  
upon fishes, it will not appear incredible that C. Hirrius should  
sell his *fish-ponds* for quadrages H. S. 32,291 l. 13 s. 4 d.  
*Arbutnot on Coins*.
- FISHER. *n. j.* [from *fish*.] One who is employed in catching  
fish.  
In our fight the three were taken up  
By fishermen of Corinth, as we thought:  
At length another had seiz'd on us,  
And would have reft the *fishers* of their prey,  
Had not they been very flow of sail. *Shakes. Comedy of Err.*  
We know that town is but with *fishers* fraught,  
Where Theseus govern'd and where Plato taught. *Sandys*.  
Left he should suspect it, draw it from him,  
As *fishers* do the bait, to make him follow it. *Denham*.  
A soldier now he with his coat appears;  
A *fisher* now, his trembling angle bears;  
Each shape he varies. *Pope*.
- FISHERBOAT. *n. f.* [from *fisher* and *boat*.] A boat employed in  
catching fish.
- FISHERMAN. *n. f.* [from *fisher* and *man*.] One whose employment  
and livelihood is to catch fish.  
How fearful  
And dizzy 'tis to cast one's eyes so low!  
The *fishermen* that walk upon the beach  
Appear like mice. *Shakespeare's King Lear*.  
At length two monsters of unequal size,  
Hard by the shore, a *fisherman* espies. *Waller*.  
Do scales and fins bear price to this excess?  
You might have bought the *fisherman* for less. *Dryd. Juven.*
- FISHERTOWN. *n. f.* [from *fisher* and *town*.] A town inhabited by  
fishermen.  
Others of them, in that time, burned that *fishertown*  
Mouchole. *Carew's Survey of Cornwall*.  
Lime in Dorsetshire, a little *fishertown*. *Clarendon*, b. vii.
- FISHERS-COAT. *n. f.* [from *fisher* and *coat*.] A coat worn by a  
fisher.  
When Simon-Peter heard that it was the Lord, he girt his  
*fishers-coat* unto him, for he was naked, and did cast himself  
into the sea. *Jo. xxi. 7*.
- FISHERY. *n. f.* [from *fisher*.] The business of catching fish.  
We shall have plenty of mackerel this season: our *fishery*  
will not be disturbed by privateers. *Addison's Spectator*.
- FISHFUL. *adj.* [from *fish*.] Abounding with fish; stored with  
fish.  
Thus mean in state, and calm in spirit,  
My *fishful* pond is my delight. *Carew's Survey of Cornwall*.  
It is walled and guarded with the ocean, most commodious  
for traffick to all parts of the world, and watered with plea-  
sant, *fishful* and navigable rivers. *Camden's Remains*.
- TO FISHIFY. *v. a.* [from *fish*.] To turn to fish: a cant  
word.  
Here comes Romeo.  
— Without his roe, like a dried herring:  
O flesh, flesh, how art thou *fishified*! *Shak. Rom. and Juliet*.  
FISHING. *n. f.* [from *fish*.] Commodity of taking fish.  
There also would be planted a good town, having both a  
good haven and a plentiful *fishing*. *Spenser on Ireland*.
- FISHKETTLE. *n. f.* [from *fish* and *kettle*.] A caldron made long  
for the fish to be boiled without bending.  
It is probable that the way of embalming amongst the Egypt-  
ians was by boiling the body, in a long caldron like a *fish-  
kettle*, in some kind of liquid balsam. *Grew's Museum*.
- FISHMEAL.

## FIS

## FIT

- FISHMEAL. *n. f.* [from *fish* and *meal*.] Diet of fish; abstemious  
diet.  
Thin drink doth overcool their blood, and making many  
*fishmeals*, they fall into a kind of male greenickness. *Sharp*.
- FISHMONGER. *n. f.* [from *fish*.] A dealer in fish; a seller of  
fish.  
I fear to play the *fishmonger*; and yet so large a commodity  
may not pass in silence. *Carew's Survey of Cornwall*.  
The surgeon left the *fishmonger* to determine the controversy  
between him and the pike. *L'Estrange*.
- FISHY. *adj.* [from *fish*.]  
1. Consisting of fish.  
My absent inmates  
Roam the wild life in search of rural cates;  
Bait the barb'd steel, and from the *fishy* flood  
Appeal th' afflictive fierce desire of food. *Pope's Odyss.*
2. Having the qualities of fish.  
Few eyes have escaped the picture of mermaids, that is;  
according to Horace, a monster with a woman's head above,  
and *fishy* extremity below. *Brown's Vulgar Errors*.
- FISSELE. *adj.* [from *fissile*, Latin.] Having the grain in a certain  
direction, so as to be cleft.  
This crystal is a pellucid *fissile* stone, clear as water or crystal  
of the rock, and without colour; enduring a red heat without  
losing its transparency, and in a very strong heat calcining  
without fusion. *Newton's Opt.*
- FISSILE. *n. f.* from *fissile*. The quality of admitting to be  
cleft.
- FISSURE. *n. f.* [from *fissura*, Latin; *fissure*, French.] A cleft; a  
narrow chasm where a breach has been made.  
The stone and other terrestrial matter was distinguished  
into strata or layers, as it is in England: those strata were  
divided by parallel *fissures*, that were inclosed in the  
stone. *Woodward's Natural History*.
- I see  
The gaping *fissures* to receive the rain. *Thomson's Autumn*.
- TO FISSURE. *v. a.* [from the noun.] To cleave; to make a  
fissure.  
By a fall or blow the skull may be *fissured* or fractured. *Wife*.
- FIST. *n. f.* [from *fist*, Saxon.] The hand clenched with the fin-  
gers doubled down, in order to give a blow, or keep hold.  
She quick and proud, and who did Pas despise,  
Up with her *fist*, and took him on the face;  
Another time, quoth she, become more wife;  
Thus Pas did kiss her hand with little grace. *Sidney*.  
And being down, the villain fore did beat  
And bruise with clownish *fists* his manly face. *Fairy Queen*.  
Anger causeth paleness in some; in others trembling;  
swelling, foaming at the mouth, stamping, and bending the  
*fist*. *Bacon's Natural History*, N<sup>o</sup>. 716.
- And the same hand into a *fist* may clove,  
Which instantly a palm expanded shows. *Denham*.  
Tyrreus, the foster-father of the beast,  
Then clench'd a hatchet in his horny *fist*. *Dryden's Æn*.
- TO FIST. *v. a.*  
1. To strike with the fist.  
I saw him furning and *fisting* her most unmercifully. *Dryd*.
2. To gripe with the fist.  
We have been down together in my sleep,  
Unbuckling helms, *fisting* each other's throats,  
And wak'd half dead with nothing. *Shakes. Coriolanus*.
- FISTINUT. *n. f.* A pistachio nut.
- FISTICUFFS. *n. f.* [from *fist* and *cuff*.] Battle with the fist; blows  
with the fist.  
Naked men belabouring one another with snagged sticks,  
or dully falling together by the ears at *fisticuffs*. *More*.  
She would seize upon John's commons; for which they  
were fure to go to *fisticuffs*. *Arbutnot's History of John Bull*.  
My invention and judgment are perpetually at *fisticuffs*, till  
they have quite disabled each other. *Swift*.
- FISTULA. *n. f.* [Latin; *fistula*, French.]  
1. A sinuous ulcer callous within; any sinuous ulcer.  
That *fistula* which is recent is the easiest of cure: those of  
a long continuance are accompanied with ulcerations of the  
gland and caries in the bone. *Wifeman's Surgery*.
2. FISTULA Lacrimalis. A disorder of the canals leading  
from the eye to the nose, which obstructs the natural progress  
of the tears, and makes them trickle down the cheek; but  
this is only the first and mildest stage of the disease: in the  
next there is matter discharged with the tears from the *puncta  
lacrimalia*, and sometimes from an orifice broke through the  
skin between the nose and angle of the eye. The last  
worst degree of it is when the matter of the eye, by its long  
continuance, has not only corroded the neighbouring soft  
parts, but also affected the subjacent bone. *Sharp's Surgery*.
- FISTULAR. *adj.* [from *fistula*.] Hollow like a pipe.
- FISTULOUS. *adj.* [from *fistula*; *fistuleux*, French.] Having  
the nature of a fistula; callous or sinuous like a fistula.  
How these sinuous ulcers become *fistulous*, I have shewn  
you. *Wifeman's Surgery*.
- FIT. *n. f.* [from *fight*, Skinner, every fit of a disease being a  
struggle of nature; from *vit*, in Flemish, frequent, *Junius*.]  
4

## FIT

1. A paroxysm or exacerbation of any intermittent distemper.  
Small stones and gravel collect and become very large in  
the kidneys, in which case a *fit* of the stone in that part is the  
cure. *Sharp's Surgery*.
2. Any short return after intermission; interval.  
Sometimes 'tis grateful to the rich to try  
A short vicissitude, and *fit* of poverty. *Dryden's Horace*.  
Men that are habitually wicked may now and then, by *fits*  
and starts, feel certain motions of repentance. *L'Estrange*.  
By *fits* my swelling grief appears,  
In rising sighs and falling tears. *Addison on Italy*.  
Thus o'er the dying lamp th' unsteady flame  
Hangs quivering on a point, leaps off by *fits*,  
And falls again as loth to quit its hold. *Addison's Cato*.  
Religion is not the business of some *fits* only and intervals  
of our life, to be taken up at certain days and hours, and laid  
aside for the rest of our time; but a system of precepts to be  
regarded in all our conduct. *Rogers's Sermons*.  
All *fits* of pleasure we balanced by an equal degree of pain  
or languor: 'tis like spending this year part of the next year's  
revenue. *Swift*.
3. Any violent affection of mind or body.  
The life did slit away out of her nest,  
And all his senses were with deadly *fit* oppress. *Fairy Queen*.  
An ambitious man subjects himself to others, and puts it  
in the power of every malicious tongue to throw him into a  
*fit* of melancholy. *Addison's Spectator*.
4. Disorder; distemperature.  
For your husband,  
He's noble, wise, judicious, and best knows  
The *fits* o' th' season. *Shakespeare's Macbeth*.  
It is used, without an epithet of discrimination, for the hy-  
sterical disorders of women, and the convulsions of children;  
and by the vulgar for the epilepsy.  
Mrs. Bull was so much enraged, that she fell downright  
into a *fit*. *Arbutnot's History of John Bull*.
- FIT. *adj.* [written, Flemish, *Junius*.]  
1. Qualified; proper: with *for* before the noun, and *to* before  
the verb.  
Mighty men of valour, *fit* to go out for war and battle.  
*Chron. vii. 11*.  
He lends him vain Goliath's sacred sword,  
The *fittest* help just fortune could afford. *Cowley's Davideis*.  
This fury *fit* for her intent she chose,  
One who delights in wars and human woes. *Dryden's Æn*.  
It is a wrong use of my understanding to make it the rule  
and measure of another man's; a use which it is neither *fit*  
for, nor capable of. *Locke*.
2. Convenient; meet; proper; right.  
Since we have said it were good not to use men of ambi-  
tious natures, except it be upon necessity, it is *fit* we speak in  
what cases they are so. *Bacon's Essay* 37.  
See how thou could'st judge of *fit* and meet. *Milt. P. L.*  
It is *fit* for a man to know his own abilities and weak-  
nesses, and not think himself obliged to imitate all that he  
thinks *fit* to praise. *Boyle*.  
If our forefathers thought *fit* to be grave and serious, I hope  
their posterity may laugh without offence. *Addison*.
- TO FIT. *v. a.* [written, Flemish, *Junius*.]  
1. To accommodate to any thing; to suit one thing to another.  
The carpenter marketh it out with a line: he *fitteth* it with  
planes. *J. xlv. 13*.  
Would fate permit  
To my desires I might my fortune *fit*,  
Troy I would raise. *Denham*.
2. To accommodate a person with any thing; as, the tailor *fits*  
his customer.  
A trussmaker *fitted* the child with a pair of boddices, stiffened  
on the lame side. *Wifeman's Surgery*.
3. To be adapted to; to suit any thing.  
She shall be our messenger to this paltry knight: trust me  
I thought on her; she'll *fit* it. *Shakespeare*.  
As much of the stone as was contiguous to the marcasite,  
*fitted* the marcasite so close as if it had been formerly liquid. *Bo*.
4. To FIT out. To furnish; to equip; to supply with necessa-  
ries or decoration.  
A plays, which if you dare but twice *fit out*,  
You'll all be slander'd, and be thought devout. *Dryden*.  
The English fleet could not be paid and manned, and *fitted  
out*, unless we encouraged trade and navigation. *Addison's Freeb.*
5. To FIT up. To furnish; to make proper for the use or re-  
ception of any.  
He has *fitted up* his farm. *Pope to Swift*.
- TO FIT. *v. n.* To be proper; to be fit.  
Nor *fits* it to prolong the heavenly feast,  
Timeless, indecent, but retire to rest. *Pope's Odyss.*, b. iii.
- FITCH. *n. f.* [A colloquial corruption of *vetch*.] A small kind  
of wild pea.  
Now is the season  
For sowing of *fitches*, of beans, and of peason. *Tusser*.
- FITCHAT. *n. f.* [from *fitch*, French; *fische*, Dutch.] A stinking  
FITCHIEW. A little beast, that robs the henrook and warren.  
*Skinner*